

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal information providing system for providing personal information regarding a user through the Internet, said system comprising:

a personal information storer configured to store identifying information for a recipient of an electronic mail sent by the user; and

a provider for authenticating a requester using said identifying information and providing the personal information regarding the user to said a requester ~~with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.~~

2. (Withdrawn) A personal information providing system, comprising a user terminal and a personal information server, for providing personal information regarding a user through the Internet, wherein

said user terminal comprises:

personal information transmission means for transmitting the personal information regarding the user to the personal information server;

electronic mail transmission means for allowing said user to create and transmit an electronic mail;

recipient information generation means for transmitting to the personal information server recipient information for a recipient of the electronic mail transmitted from said user;

electronic mail reception means for allowing said user to receive electronic mail;
and

personal information acquisition means for allowing the user when the user receives electronic mail to request, from said personal information server, personal information regarding the sender of the electronic mail received by the user from said personal information server, and wherein

said personal information server comprises:

personal information registration means for receiving the personal information regarding said user from said terminal, and for registering the received personal information with a personal information file;

empowering means for receiving recipient information from said user terminal and for empowering the recipient who is described in said recipient information to refer to the personal information regarding said user; and

personal information providing means for transmitting the personal information regarding said user to said recipient if said recipient requesting the personal information regarding said user is empowered to refer to the personal information regarding said user.

3. (Withdrawn) A personal information providing system according to claim 2, wherein

said user terminal further comprises means for generating cancellation information describing information on a person being forbidden, and for transmitting the generated cancellation information to said personal information server;

said personal information server further comprises means for receiving said cancellation information, and for canceling power of a person described in said cancellation information to refer to the personal information on said user.

4. (Withdrawn) The personal information providing system according to claim 2,

wherein said recipient information generation means is provided with a exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient for whom recipient information shall not be generated, and

wherein said recipient information generation means omits generation of said recipient information if the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail is included in said exclusion file.

5. (Currently Amended) A personal information providing method for providing personal information regarding a user through the Internet, comprising:

storing identifying information for a recipient of an electronic mail sent by the user[[:]];

authenticating a requester using said identifying information; and

providing the personal information data regarding the user to said requester ~~only to a requester with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.~~

6. (Withdrawn) A personal information providing method for providing personal information regarding a user through the Internet, comprising:

making the user register the personal information with a personal information server;

transmitting an electronic mail created by said user to a recipient;

generating recipient information identifying the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail;

transmitting the generated recipient information to said personal information server;

making said personal information server receive said recipient information, and empowering the recipient identified by said recipient information to refer to the personal information regarding said user;

making said recipient request said personal information server to transmit the personal information regarding said user; and

making said personal information server examine whether said recipient is empowered to refer to the personal information regarding said user, and transmit the personal information regarding said user to the recipient if the recipient is empowered.

7. (Withdrawn) The personal information providing method according to claim 6, further comprising:

making said personal information server cancel power of a person to refer to the personal information regarding said user in response to a cancellation instruction from said user.

8. (Withdrawn) The personal information providing method according to claim 6, further comprising:

when the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail is included in an exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient for whom recipient information shall not be generated, omitting generation of said recipient information.